

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the Specification as follows:

Please amend page 6, lines 1-6 as follows:

~~Fig. 38 is intentionally left blank;~~

Fig. ~~39~~38 is a perspective view of a tip isolation containment assembly for use with the apparatus of Fig. 34;

Fig. ~~40~~39 is a perspective view of an alternate magnet configuration for use with the alternate sample prep process are of Fig. 35;

Please amend page 59, line 20-31 as follows:

To aid in the reduction of solid waste, the fluid handler 86 utilizing disposable pipette tips 28 may reserve tip(s) 28 for use with a specific or particular sample during the chemistry process to be used on multiple occasions. To properly house such tip(s) 28 during appropriate times in the process to be re-used later in the process, a tip isolation container 107 interfaces with tip isolation container holder 106 as shown in Fig. ~~39~~38. This causes each tip in an array of tips to be stored and isolated from other tips until they are needed. The skilled artisan will appreciate that substantial reductions in solid waste generation can result from the use of this pipette parking mechanism and assembly.

Please amend page 61, lines 3-18 as follows:

In another embodiment, cylindrical magnets may be used in the magnet assembly 87. Advantageously, cylindrical magnets have a north pole along one edge of the cylinder and a south pole along the opposite edge. As illustrated in Fig. ~~40~~39, cylindrical magnet(s) 99 may be oriented around the container(s) 1 to achieve effective capture of magnetic microparticles. Multiple options are available for configuring the array of magnets around the array of containers 1. For example, each container 1 in the array of containers can be placed next to four cylindrical magnets as is depicted in Figure ~~40~~39. Alternatively, two or one cylindrical magnets can be disposed next to each container. In another embodiment, one cylindrical magnet can be placed between each 2-by-2 subarray (or element) of containers 1 in the container array. Figure ~~40~~D shows an installation of cylindrical magnets 99 in structure 104.